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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from
Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and
Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial
and Development Institutions,
New York, 30 July – 3 August 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of progress in development of transit systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, including consideration, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/199, of the proposal made by the fourth meeting in 1999 regarding the convening in 2003 of a ministerial meeting on transit transport issues so as to give appropriate emphasis to the problems of landlocked and transit developing countries

4. Other business

5. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

1. The Meeting may wish to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda above has been prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in accordance with the terms of reference given to the Meeting by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/199 (paragraphs 11 and 12). The secretariat's suggestions for the organization of work and a tentative timetable of meetings are presented in tabular form in the Annex.

Item 3: Review of progress in the development of transit systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, including consideration, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/199, of the proposal made by the fourth meeting in 1999 regarding the convening in 2003 of a ministerial meeting on transit transport issues so as to give appropriate emphasis to the problems of landlocked and transit developing countries

3. The terms of reference of the Meeting, as set out in the General Assembly resolution, are to review progress in the development of transit systems in the landlocked and transit developing countries, including consideration, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/199, of the proposal made by the fourth meeting in 1999 regarding the convening in 2003 of a ministerial meeting on transit transport issues so as to give appropriate emphasis to the problems of landlocked and transit developing countries. For its consideration of item 3, the Meeting will have before it a note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Transit Systems of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries: Recent Developments, and Proposals for Future Action (TD/B/LDC/AC.1/17). The note provides a brief overview of recent developments in the economic and transit trade environment of landlocked developing countries. It points out in particular that lack of adequate government financial resources to maintain appropriate levels of investment in both the maintenance and modernization of infrastructure services, the decline in concessional aid (both bilateral and multilateral) for infrastructure development, and increased demand by customers, for more sophisticated logistical services have intensified private sector involvement in order to secure needed management expertise and capital. Many developing countries have now introduced some form of private sector involvement in infrastructure development. However, for many landlocked and transit developing countries attracting private sector investment in infrastructure remains a major challenge. For these countries, purely private financing schemes may not be feasible in many cases. However, a combination of private and public participation, together with the involvement of specific regional funds and local capital, could offer a solution. In this context, the role of donors and international financial and development agencies in promoting innovative financial mechanisms which can help landlocked and transit developing countries meet their infrastructure financing and management needs is examined.

4. The high cost of transport for imported goods inflates the consumer prices, and the high cost of transport for exports undermines their competitiveness in foreign markets. The fourth meeting, held in 1999, explored the possibility of convening in 2003 a ministerial meeting on transit transport issues so as to give appropriate emphasis to the problem of landlocked and

transit developing countries. The idea was briefly considered in 1999 by the General Assembly, which in turn requested the Fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions in 2001 to make a specific recommendation on the matter.

5. The Ministers of the Group of Landlocked Countries, meeting in New York during the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations on 18 September 2000, issued a communiqué supporting the convening in 2003 of a ministerial meeting on transit transport issues so as to give appropriate emphasis to the problems of landlocked and transit developing countries.

6. In addition to the main document (TD/B/LDC/AC.1/17), a number of background documents will be made available to the Meeting in limited quantities and in the language(s) in which they were prepared.

Item 4: Other business

Item 5: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

7. The report of the Meeting, including its conclusions and recommendations, will be transmitted to the Trade and Development Board at its forty-eighth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

ANNEX
Tentative timetable of meetings
(30 July – 3 August 2001)

Monday 30.07.2001	Tuesday 31.07.2001	Wednesday 1.08.2001	Thursday 2.08.2001	Friday 3.8.2001
10 a.m. Item 1. Election of officers Item 2. Adoption of agenda and organization of work Statement by Special Coordinator for LDCs Statement by Chairman Opening of informal meeting on item 3	10 a.m. Plenary meeting on item 3 Opening of session	10 a.m. Informal meeting on item 3	10 a.m. Informal meeting on item 3	10 a.m. Preparation of report
3 p.m. Plenary meeting on item 3	3 p.m. Plenary meeting on item 3	3 p.m. Informal meeting on item 3	3 p.m. Preparation of conclusions and recommendations (item 3)	3 p.m. Item 5 Adoption of report